

PATENT APPLICATION

042390.P9854

Remarks

Reexamination and reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested. Claims 1-23 remain in the application.

Applicants believe there is no charge for this response because no new claims have been added.

Support for Amendments

The specification has been amended to correct other minor and inadvertent grammatical errors. This amendment is directed strictly to matters of form and, therefore, does not affect the scope of the claims or create any prosecution history estoppel.

Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

Drawing Changes

Applicants have amended the drawings to make the modifications requested by the Office Action.

Allowed Claims

Applicants would also like to gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 4, 5, 12-14, 16, 17, and 22 would be allowable if the objection as being dependent upon a rejected base claim were overcome.

Without conceding the appropriateness of the combination of the cited documents, Applicants would like to kindly point out that the patent to both Maloney et al. and Ye et al. are assigned to the same assignee as the present application; namely Intel Corporation.

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In addition, Applicants would like to point out that at least the patent to Ye et al. was issued after the filing of the present application. However, 35 USC §102(c) states:

(c) Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under one or more of subsections (e), (f), and (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

Applicants respectfully submit that Ye et al. may not be used to preclude patentability of the present application. Accordingly, Applicants believe the claims are allowable in their current form.

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Conclusion

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed March 27, 2003, and it is submitted that claims 1-23 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejection is requested.

Should it be determined that an additional fee is due under 37 CFR §§1.6 or 1.17, or any excess fee has been received, please charge that fee or credit the amount of overcharge to deposit account #02-2666.

If the Examiner believes that there are any informalities which can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, a telephone call to the undersigned at (480) 554-9732 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence T. Clark et al.



Kenneth M. Seddon
Senior Patent Attorney
Reg. No. 43,105

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c/o Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman, LLP
12400 Wilshire Blvd., Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(503) 264-0967